

*NAPOLEON AND THE LONDON  
MOB.*

49

my son came of age.' He had found the Italians lazy and effeminate, 'But I finished by making them as good soldiers as the French.'<sup>7</sup> On my naming the Viceroy he said, 'He is a young man whom I have always treated as my son, and who has always deserved my praise.' I asked if he was not a very good officer? He said, '<sup>6</sup> Yes, he has always behaved very well; but he is by no means a man of superior talents.' He questioned me a good deal about Milan, the disposition of the people towards him, whether the things he had begun there were going on, etc., and seemed pleased at my admiration of the Simplon, which led him to speak of the roads and other public works he had made, or intended to have made, in different parts of the French dominions. Among them he particularly mentioned the dockyards at Antwerp and Venice. "He asked me, 'What would they do with me if I were to go to England? Should I be stoned?' I replied that he would be perfectly safe there, as the violent feelings which had been excited against him were daily subsiding now that we were no longer at war. He said smiling, 'I believe, however, that there would always be some risk on the part of your London mob.'<sup>7</sup> I then mentioned to him the odium that some of his acts had produced in England, and instanced the execution of the Due d'Enghien. He justified it on the score of his being engaged in a treasonable conspiracy, and having made two journeys to Strasburg in disguise, in consequence of which he had been seized and tried by a military commission, which sentenced him to be shot. 'I have been told he desired to speak with me, which affected me, for I knew he was a young man of spirit and talent. I even believed that I would have seen him, but M. de Talleyrand hindered me, saying, "Don't commit yourself with a Bourbon: you know not what may be the consequences of it: the wine is drawn — it must be drunk."<sup>1</sup> I asked him if it was true that the Duke was

<sup>1</sup> It is due to this extraordinary personage to state our conviction, that what Napoleon says here is untrue. Napoleon knew the wonderful talent and address of M. de Talleyrand, as also how largely they had contributed to the first restoration of the Bourbons in 1814. From that moment he entertained a rancorous spite against his ex-Minister, on whose shoulders he tried to throw the weight of many of his

politics, mistakes, and crimes. He roundly asserted, on several occasions, that Talleyrand projected and coun-